

SKYWATCH

PUBLICATION OF THE MANCHESTER AERIAL PHENOMENA

INVESTIGATION TEAM

(AFFILIATED TO THE WIRRAL UFO SOCIETY)

NO. 9

SEPTEMBER

1974

Details from: Mr.D.L.Rees,
40, Mersey Road,
Sale,
Cheshire. M33 1LF
061-973-0307.

POSTBAG

This month SKYWATCH has received a lot of correspondence and find below some edited sections from a selection, owing to lack of space.

Dear Mr. Rees, It is pleasing that you are still managing to produce SKYWATCH Magazine, which is very lively and informative in its own field, and we hope that you will have success in the future. We look forward to further contact with you in the future. Yours sincerely & fraternally,

JOHN W.B. BARKLAM & J. BARKLAM (Mrs).

FORESIGHT ORGANISATION AND MAGAZINE.

SAME TO YOU, FORESIGHT....EDITOR.

Dear Mr. Randles, I was very pleased to receive your letter and the copy of SKYWATCH. I hope that your local investigation group is successful. The aim of our GUERNSEY UFO CLUB is at present to provide mainly a book-borrowing service for anyone who wants to find out more about UFO's. If at any your group or any of its members wants to carry out Research into a particular aspect of the UFO Phenomena, I may be able to help, as I keep a reference index (rather rough at present) to the different categories of reports. Yours sincerely, Geoffrey Falla.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE A GROUP LIKE YOURS, GEOFF, AND
BEST OF LUCK FROM ALL AT MAPIT.....EDITOR.

Dear Chris, Thanks for sending me a copy of SKYWATCH it is a most interesting publication & I enjoyed reading it. I hope MAPIT is a successful venture & that it will enjoy the maximum of co-operation from BUFORA. Yours sincerely, Ken Philips (NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO) (ORDINATOR BUFORA).

WE WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO CO-OPERATE WITH BUFORA
AND HOPE THAT A BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WILL EMERGE.
.....EDITOR.

MAPIT CAR STICKERS AVAILABLE FREE FROM THE
EDITORIAL ADDRESS!!!!!!!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mike Dean, Secretary of the Wirral UFO Society, has resigned his post as Secretary owing to exams. All correspondence for WUFOS to Ken Green, 760, New Chester Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire. Mike will still be a member of WUFOS. David Gittens' Group, the Northern Aerial Phenomena Research Association (NAPRA) have re-started, I'm glad to say, and recently I received a copy of their latest NAPRA Journal. One of the many interesting articles was about the "Delamere Forest Monster" in Cheshire. For 20p you get a 48 page magazine and that can't be bad, can it? Copies obtainable from: Mr. D. Gittens, 60, Tidsley Crescent, Weston Village, Runcorn, Cheshire.

A few months ago a member of MAPIT went down to Wolverhampton to attend an Erich Von Daniken (you either believe him or not), Lecture. About 1,000 people attended and (?) apparently he was not given a rough time by sceptics. Unfortunately, it was a flying visit and not another lecture tour. Members of BUFORA who may have received their latest "BUFORA JOURNALS" will see a lot of summarised sightings credited to MAPIT; we don't want them down south to forget we exist! Essential reading at present: The MAPIT special issue No.1, all about the origins of UFO's, (Time Travellers, Hollow Earth, etc.). To obtain a copy, send only a S.A.E. to: 40, Mersey Road, Sale, Cheshire (limited stocks).

To finish with a quote "Science is organised knowledge". Unnoted source.

SCUNTHORPE UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY: DETAILS FROM:
NIGEL WATSON, 1. ANGERSTEIN ROAD, SCUNTHORPE, SOUTH HUMBERSIDE, Lincs. DN17 2LZ.

ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION TO: SKYWATCH, 40, MERSEY ROAD, SALE, CHESHIRE, M33 1LF.

STOP PRESS:.....SKYWATCH GOES INTERNATIONAL FROM THIS ISSUE. IT SEEMS WE ARE BECOMING POPULAR IN EUROPE. LATEST ENQUIRY COMES FROM NONE OTHER THAN "REDAKTIE UFO INFO" BASED AT GENT IN BELGIUM!!!!!!

MAPIT AND THE MEDIA

No group such as ours could hope to do the job it sets out to do without publicity. This is the only way in which the public can become aware that we are available to record details of their puzzling observations. Nevertheless it is some measure of our success when you see the extent of our recent escapades. David Rees did a filmed interview for a Granada T.V. Special on UFO's which at this time is due for imminent showing - and both he and Chris. Randles were joined by Mike Dean and Ken Green (WUFOS) on a 30 minute discussion programme on Piccadilly Radio. This show went out on August 15th and it is hoped it will bring a response in sighting reports. Jim Hancock, the presenter of the "Platform" show proved a very fair-minded chairman and led the four through a precis of many of the ideas and theories for UFO phenomena - plus some of the evidence for their existence. Of course, even a programme of this length did not allow full treatment of the situation - but it was felt that given the fact that there was no pre-planning, a good general coverage, and certainly an interesting discussion emerged. It is a pity that more time was not available to discuss local sightings and UFO activity and the result may have seemed slightly biased against this, but one cannot do everything at once and certainly MAPIT - and the UFO scene in the North West - must benefit from this publicity. Thanks must go to Mike and Ken for co-operating so well in this venture. It is perhaps an indication of MAPIT's concern for giving UFOlogy a respectable image that it turned down an offer of a feature story in the Stockport Advertiser, because they believed "we went looking for these things every night under bushes". It is not difficult

to imagine what kind of story would emerge (Silly Season from such an impression. MAPIT needs publicity - but it is not avidly seeking it - and certainly not that kind!

MAPIT is building up quite a tape library and arrangements can be made for these to be recorded for you on tape or cassette. Obviously we will have to charge something for this service - but if you are interested in hearing the Wirral UFO Conference (see article in this issue) approx. 1½ hrs. or the Platform Radio Programme (see article in this issue) approx. 30 mins. contact Mr.D.L.Rees for details.

WHO NEEDS YOU?

What use will I be to a UFO Group? This is a question many of you must have asked at one time or another.

True, everyone has in common the basic urge to probe into these Mysterious Phenomena, but it need not be thought that because you know nothing of Physics or Astronomy then you will be of no help. The "ideal UFOlogist" would be an expert in virtually every field of knowledge - since we cannot say what is and what is not relevant to the study. Unfortunately, unlike our Phenomena, such a being as the "Ideal UFOlogist" does not exist. Every group needs amateur psychologists, historians, meteorologists, physicists, chemists, astronomers, anthropologists, sociologists.....the list is endless, and it is pointless going into the reasons why each one is relevant. The point is that whatever your knowledge (or interest, if you are not quite so egocentric as to believe that interest is knowledge) - it is in some way of importance to our investigation. To answer the question in the title, Who needs you? - WE DO!!!!

THE WIRRAL CONFERENCE

This summer, under the organisation of the Wirral UFO Society, the first Northern UFO Conference for some time was held at Bebington. The response was far above expectation with approximately 100 people enjoying a well-run afternoon. Of course there were problems, and we must learn from them, as the organisers openly stated. On the whole, though, they must be congratulated for attempting such a venture. The speakers could, frankly, have been better - although for entertainment value they were a success. Also most were speaking in public for the first time so allowances had to be made. In truth though it was not mainly the quality of the speeches but their content which left things to be desired. One wonders at the impression of a newcomer to UFOlogy or an outsider to the subject when hearing the talks of Alan Walsh regarding UFO's in the centre of Liverpool. One is not disputing the basic facts, simply the fantastic way in which they were presented. Also we were subjected to a never-ending onslaught of pseudo-religion from a Mr. Blower which seemed to be doing its best to avoid the subject of UFO's altogether. The last section in particular was great to hear but of course it was not meant to be funny. About the only saving grace was the brief talks by representatives of various groups - this did something to salvage a measure of scientific respectability and common sense. I am not knocking the Conference, which, as I say can certainly be counted a qualified success. We hope to arrange one in the Manchester Area this Autumn or Winter with the help of the Wirral Group. Probably a more comprehensive exhibition of UFO case histories (with artistic drawings) and graphs and darts with the possible addition of UFO equipment, demonstrations, will be a beneficial addition. But certainly this effort is to be commended and we will find it of immense help in planning and organising future events.

TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE MAY BE OBTAINED
FROM WUFOS (c/o Mr. K. Green)

CRAZY IDEAS

Many people connected with UFOlogy think the subject needs a shot in the arm. The reasons for this vary, but I think many will agree public interest has declined rapidly in the last eight years. What could be done to improve the UFO Phenomena in the eyes of the Media? Well, apart from them landing in Hyde Park, many think Sponsorship is needed. How long will it be till we see the first CocaCola Sponsored Skywatch? What about a UFO Radio station? which could keep everyone up to date with the news and out of this world music. How about a weekly T.V. programme on UFO's as the late Frank Edwards successfully hosted in the U.S.? What about evening class courses for adults? Another point which has declined is the interest shown in UFO's by the Worlds Film Industry, the only film worth a mention is Kubrick's "2001". Of course, United Artists made a 90 minute U.F.O. Documentary film, but how many of us in Britain have seen this film? What do you think the future holds for UFOlogy? Drop us a line and we will print the best ideas. Perhaps what has been suggested are not crazy ideas; who knows until they are tried????

If you have had a UFO sighting, why not send a letter to MAPIT and then we can send one of our Investigators to interview you if you wish or a Sighting Report Form.

If you would like to start a UFO Group in your local area, write now to M.A.F.I.T., 40, Mersey Road, Sale, Cheshire. M33 1LF.

UFOs and Time Travel (Part 1).

In the Gobi Desert there is a formation of sandstone rock. It was formed by the slow solification of a sandy beach or river bed and it contains the footprint of a man who walked across that sand - two million years ago. That fact alone is not too surprising.

Geologists now believe that man's ancestors stretch back to 10-15 million years and fossilised remains do exist, - but these are primitive sub-human races, not civilised man and the footprint in the Gobi rock is of a man wearing a shoe.

This is no isolated incident, either. Other rocks abound with foot and hand-prints in them. Rocks which formed at times when Dinosaurs roamed a tropical world and hardly any mammals and certainly no men existed. There are even stones of archaefacts found inside rocks - for example, iron nails. This is fortunate since over 75 million years only the most hardy archaefacts would survive the ravages of time. How much of our plastic-bottled cake-canned world will become fossils for future Geologists? The question is, how can these things occur? So far the only explanation put forward has been that these prove that either Men have been around for longer than we believe, or that they are proof of an extra-terrestrial visitation. Two points are important. These rocks are spaced over millions of years and they show no sign of evolution. If man had been around for so long we would not be here as we are now. Apart from this, the fossil record - though incomplete - has become clear enough to be certain that humans could not have existed so long ago. So where are we left? Extra-Terrestrial visitors are possible. Though the time factor is a problem. Did they visit us every few million years (even though there was no intelligent life)? Are they remains of many different space races? How long has life abounded in the Universe? Or are they signs of time travel? In this series I will endeavour to put forward ideas and theories about why time-travel is possible and how UFO's can get into its theories but let's consider these mysteries first. Time Travel is probably only possible into the past (though how do you get back to your present - the past's future).

Expeditions would be sent to observe the past and would be left to become our fossils. If these expeditions are from, say, 2974AD, we are in the remote past to them. Consider how we would study the civilisation of 974AD in a helicopter. We would transport that back in time.

Next month I will compare this to the UFO phenomena.

To be continued in next issue.

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NORMAN OLIVER LECTURE: In the last issue appeared an
advert for a Norman Oliver Lecture on 7th October in
Scunthorpe. Unfortunately, Skywatch received a
letter from Nigel Watson of the Scunthorpe UFO.Soc.
informing us that in a letter to him, Mr.Oliver
states: "Owing to unforeseen circumstances, I regret
I've had to cancel all lecture engagements for the
present", and apologises for any inconvenience caused.

NAPRA - Details from: THE DIRECTOR, MR.D.GITTENS,
60, TIDSLEY CRESCENT, WESTON VILLAGE, RUNCORN,
CHESHIRE. Publishers of NAPRA JOURNAL & NEWSLINK.

LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:

SKYWATCH, 40, MERSEY ROAD, SALL, CHESHIRE. M33 1LF.